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The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"Probably the clerks are in touch with the work in the Excise Department and the men employed in fisheries work are not."

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—"May I know whether in the last two or three years, no other direct recruitment to the Excise Subordinate Service had been made?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"I believe it has been made but I am afraid I cannot give the information as I am not in charge of the department."

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—"When raw men can be found suitable for work as Excise sub-inspectors, may I know why Government seem to think that the Fisheries Sub-Inspectors are not fit to do such work?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"There are rules governing recruitment to the Excise Department, and naturally they have been following those rules."

Mr. M. S. Sreshta:—"I find the Hon. Minister has dealt with this matter generously. May I ask the Hon. Minister whether he would extend his generosity by saying that these Fisheries Sub-Inspectors may be interviewed, so that it might be found out whether they are fit or unfit for appointment as Excise Sub-Inspectors?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"By whom?"

Mr. M. S. Sreshta:—"By the Madras Services Commission."

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"I am afraid, it may not be possible to ask the Madras Services Commission. If at any time they apply, the hon. Member's suggestion would be considered as regards the action to be taken by the Commissioner of Excise."

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar:—"Do the Government think that once people are appointed to the Fisheries Department, they are afterwards incapable of doing any other work?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"As I said, each service has got its own rules; and it is left to the heads of departments to see whether the men they recruit are suitable for the post."

Weights and Measures

Standardization of weights and measures.

*572 *Q.*—Mr. C. Basu Dev: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have considered the desirability of effecting uniformity in weights and measures in the province;

(*b*) whether the Government have received any suggestions from their officers for effecting such uniformity;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of India for effecting such uniformity throughout India; and

(d) whether the Government have examined the approximate charge on provincial revenues a Provincial Act for effecting uniformity in weights and measures is likely to entail and, if so, what it is?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The Government of India had such a question under their consideration, but subsequently left it to Local Governments to take it up if they desire. The whole question is now being considered by a Sub-Committee of the Economic Council.

(*d*) No.

Expenditure from Provincial Revenues in the event of legislation standardizing weights and measures.

* 573 *Q.*—Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI: With reference to the refusal of sanction for the introduction of my Weights and Measures Bill, will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the probable expenditure from the Provincial Revenues to give effect to the provisions of that Bill?

A.—The probable expenditure that will be involved in giving effect to the provisions of the Bill has not been worked out.

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—"May I know, Sir, why without knowing the actual expenditure that will be involved as a result of the introduction of this measure, the Government have refused to accord sanction for the same?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"They thought that the present state of the finances of this Government would not permit a measure of this kind being legislated."

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—"Are the Government aware that there would be no expenditure at all according to the present Bill?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"I cannot say that no expenditure would be incurred."

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—"In reply to a previous question, the Hon. Minister has stated that the whole question was being considered by the Sub-Committee of the Economic Council. May I know whether the Government are going to decide the question as early as possible in view of the fact that several ryots are being put to a lot of inconvenience?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"As soon as the recommendations of the Sub-Committee are received, it will certainly be taken up."